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Jericho, February, 1/51.

Here we are in the middle of the first full-dress dig of the season: the excavation of New Testament Jericho. One of our first surprises was to find that we were working not only in Roman, but in Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Jericho as well. Digging just twenty meters to the west of the south tell, where Professor James L. Kelso excavated last season, we found a beautifully undisturbed deposit of pottery from these two earlier periods, extending to a depth of two and a half meters. This occupation was directly below the Roman remains. The Chalcolithic-Early Bronze settlement extended over a large area to the west and north of the south tell of Tulul Abu el-'Alayiq and promises to be a very revealing area for our knowledge of the earlier periods. Since we are spending all the daylight hours of six days a week here in Jericho and of necessity must write the newsletter here, readers may be interested in a rapid tour of the excavation. So, faddalu!

We began work here on January 9th, a Tuesday. On Monday Professor A. Henry Detweiler, who had arrived on the first of January to study some of the architectural problems arising out of last year's work, and I came down here but found that the one and only rain of this season had made the ground too muddy to dig. We were able, however, to engage 25 refugees from the near-by Aqabat Jabr Camp and to stake out the areas which he wished to examine further. Professor Detweiler remained for the first 12 days of the excavation, during which time he assumed complete direction of the work and succeeded, I think, in finding many details for the final plan which will appear as the result of last year's work. On January 21st he left for a few days in Rome, where he planned to do some special research on the Roman architecture of the period from which came the spectacular facade of last season. It was particularly good to have Henry Detweiler at the School. He entertained us for many hours by stories drawn from his rich fund of experience in digs since 1930 and enlivened the social life of the School by entertaining his friends of former years. At a tea which Professor and Mrs. Winnett and I gave for him there were such familiar figures as Père Vincent, Père de Vaux, Dr. Canaan and others. One tangible and greatly appreciated result of the visit was the installation in the garage of the generator, which was brought out last year for the photographic project, to give us electricity during the periods when the power from the city fails, as it does every other evening. Now our heaters keep right on, even through the regular black-outs.

It soon became apparent in our work here that the main objective for this season should be the clearing of a large building to the west of the mound, and which we hit upon in our second week. We were first impressed with the importance of this building by the great depth to which the corner foundation had been laid. The foundation for the building extends four meters from the surface and was obviously designed to support a very heavy thrust. We began by tracing the two walls which came together at this corner. While the limits have not yet been definitely fixed, we are confident that the length of the building is but a little under that of a football field. We have traced the long wall to a distance of 87 meters and the side wall to the road, a distance of over 33 meters. These foundation walls are very well built of alternating courses of cut limestone blocks and wadi-bei

bles. The orientation of this large structure, which we shall for convenience call a palace, is facing the splendid façade which was uncovered last year. Between the palace and the façade are several terraces, revealed not only by the general contour of the present cultivated area, but by terrace walls appearing in the soundings made during the first week.

The palace was a very impressive structure. The extensive ground plan itself attests its grandeur. In addition there have come up a number of drums of columns, a capital, a base, and many examples of carefully dressed stones. At the moment we are engaged in the clearing out of the two so-called Roman baths, to which we have found both the inlet and the drain. Fortunately they are in an excellent state of preservation; so well preserved are they, in fact, that they could probably be filled and would hold water for some time. When they are fully cleared it will be interesting to compare them with those found at Samaria. It is fortunate too that the drain from these, in which examples of Roman sherds were found, is well preserved all the way under the building to the outside of the palace wall. The palace enjoyed two excellent views: one, looking out over the Dead Sea to the south, and the other, overlooking the Wadi Qelt, as it opens into the Jordan plain. It also enjoyed the security afforded by the fortress of the south tell, which was carefully excavated last year and described by Dr. Kelso in the last issue of the Bulletin.

Our chief difficulty thus far has been in the matter of negotiations for a crop of tomatoes which had been planted over the entire area of the palace. The land itself belongs to the three Hussein brothers, whose interest in archaeology is fully a matter of record - they gave the area last year for purposes of excavation - and is in evidence day by day when one or another of them visits our dig. The tomatoes, however, belong to a Hajj, a Moroccan, whose interest seems to lie more in the direction of agriculture than in archaeology. While we have agreed to compensate him for all tomatoes destroyed on the basis of the average yield of the surrounding area - this is the same principle for compensation laid down in the Hammurabi Code, § 42 - each plant which we are forced to uproot is, as he put it, one of his children or a part of his heart. Day before yesterday he was sorely tried by our further encroachment upon the cultivated area, as we doggedly pursued a wall which in its course seemed to have no feeling for the attachment of the Hajj to his tomato plants. He exploded and solemnly ordered twenty-five of our laborers to cease digging. Finally after an hour's conference, at which Nafez Bey Hussein sought to enlarge the cultural horizon of the Hajj, good relations were reestablished, or I should say, he became resigned to the encroachments which the past was making upon the present. Actually the accursed walls have a way about them of going right under the most fertile area of this patch.

We have an excellent, and rapidly growing staff. Professor Winnett has been able to get away from his routine duties in Jerusalem to come down every other day, making certain to be present with bags of money whenever time comes for paying off the workers. The three fellows of the School, Miss Mowry, Father Murphy, Dr. Morton, and the honorary fellow, Mr. Thompson, have been serving in one capacity or another as members of the staff. In addition, we have been joined by Professor Edward P. Blair, of Garrett Biblical Institute, Chicago, who arrived here last week. The fellows have all had some seasoning at the sounding at Diban in the fall, and Dr. Blair, it will be remembered, carried on a sounding at Anata in the spring of 1936. We have also had the help of the two students of the School, Mr. Kenneth W. Ogden and Mr. Irvin Lehman, the former having had some experience at Diban. The interest has been such that we have had every seat in the station wagon filled as it left Jerusalem at the early hour of 6:30 each morning, and on occasion we were forced to leave some behind for lack of transportation. Besides the staff itself we have had generous help and counsel from visiting archaeologists. Père de Vaux has paid us two visits already; on the

last one he brought the entire staff from his Tell Far'ah expedition. Miss Kathleen M. Kenyon, the Director of the British School of Archaeology, who was here for a short time making plans to dig at Tell es-Sultan next January, spent an entire day with us, during which we were all stimulated by her observations and comments. Mr. G. Lankester Harding, Chief Curator of the Department of Antiquities for the Kingdom of Jordan, has been with us for part of a day. Besides these archaeologists we have had numerous visitors - the excavation is, whether we like it or not, located on the "Main Line" of Jordan, that which runs from Jerusalem to Amman - for all of whom we have tried to serve as a good dragoman.

The labor we have been able to procure has been extremely satisfactory. We are now employing 80 refugees recruited from the neighboring Aqabat Jaber Camp, where there are now 22,000 registrations. After months of negotiations and numerous trips to Amman to discuss the application for free refugee labor, we have received an answer that the Planning and Development Board of the Jordan Government has refused our application for the use of UNRWA labor on the Jericho and the Diban projects. The UNRWA seemed to be quite willing to give us the funds, but for some unknown reason the government board was unwilling to approve. Consequently, we are forced to pay from the archaeological budget for the labor. This decision came as a great disappointment not only to us, but to other archaeologists, who hoped to display for tourists some permanent monuments of Jordan's past. However, with the cheap labor now available for excavation it is yet a most opportune moment for archaeological activity here in this side of Palestine. The refugees are most anxious to work. Three days ago, when we needed twenty-five more men, Dr. Winnett and I drove in the School's station wagon to the director of the refugee camp to order them for the next day. As we finished the cup of tea he offered us, we went to the car to find that already more than the necessary number were gathered about. They had been watching, just in case the Americans should be wanting more men. One worker who began two days ago told me that it was his first day of work in two years. I am sure many others were working for the first time since the troubles, to judge by the eagerness with which they began their work and kept at it all day. We have been offering a modest bonus for coins and, until a few days ago, the system worked well. On that day a pickman hit upon a cache of 88 coins in one spot. As he stepped back to survey his treasure three basketmen plunged in to grasp as much of the "pay dirt" as their hands could hold. One man got no less than 30 coins in one grab. For the remainder of the day this particular gang was absolutely worthless as far as moving earth was concerned. When they were not carefully sifting every spoonful of earth with their fingers they were talking of their respective accomplishments in finance. These 88 coins have so trained the eyes of this gang that by far the largest number of coins turned in since have come from their hands.

There is a new and quite unfamiliar sound coming from the mound today. When Père de Vaux was last here he kindly offered us the use of six wheelbarrows and nine good shovels. We accepted quickly and found them very useful for removing the mass of top soil which overlies most of the palace foundation. Now there is the screek of the wheelbarrow wheels to accompany the songs which laborers in this part of the world are accustomed to sing as they work. A good man with a wheelbarrow can do the work of four or five basket carriers. Speaking of sounds, our lunch hour has turned into a recreation period of more than a little interest to the staff. One of the workers brought a flute some days ago; it was not long until the better part of the hour was given over to dancing. Most of the staff are now well stocked with exposed color film of the dancers, and the workmen seem to look forward to this relaxation as much as they do to lunch itself.

The hostel of the School is filled to capacity. Dean Ralph E. Knudsen, Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley, California, arrived shortly after the beginning of the year, accompanied by one of his students, Mr. Robert Rusk. Professor Blair arrived on January 23, after having seen something of Egypt on his way in. A few days later his travelling companion in Italy and Egypt, Professor Vartan D. Melconian, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, arrived, having been warmly greeted by Father Murphy, who happened to be on the same plane from Beirut. Mrs. Winnett continues to perform her duties as a most charming hostess, making the School seem homelike to all. Her hospitality has been particularly appreciated when she has served Sunday evening supper before the fireplace in the Director's house. Today Professor R.B.Y. Scott, McGill University, Montreal, arrived. Mr. Head, of the National Broadcasting Company, Chicago, was recently at the School for a short visit.

It might be of interest to report that the vacation period at Christmastime was seized upon by some of the students as a time for exploring other parts of the Near East. Mr. Thompson was able to travel in Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq, visiting a number of museums and excavations in these countries. I went to Egypt, accompanied by Mr. Ogden and Dr. Morton. We were joined later by Miss Mowry; Father Murphy followed shortly after Christmas. All of us who went to Egypt got down as far as Luxor and some as far as Assuan.

James B. Pritchard, Annual Professor.

ASOR Newsletter - Jr. School

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To the Members and Friends of the
American Schools of Oriental Research February 1951

Dear Friends:

The recent Newsletters from Prof. Winnett, our Director at Jerusalem, and personal letters reaching me from him and from Mr. G. Lankester Harding of the Jordan Department of Antiquities indicate that the three-weeks preliminary excavation carried on by the School at Dhiban (Biblical Dibon) east of the Jordan on the hills of ancient Moab has been highly successful. The excavation was done at the edge of the city mound, so as to clear an area for dumping should further work seem desirable. It brought to light the outer fortifications of the city and in so doing revealed a series of superimposed walls and ramps of a solidity and regularity that rivals the best in ancient defensive architecture of the periods in question and was hailed by Mr. Harding as showing that the site is of the utmost importance for our understanding of the ancient culture of the Jordan area. The pottery yield too is broad and representative, though as yet stratified deposits have not been touched.

Ancient Dibon is reputedly the site from which came the Moabite Stone with the famous Mesha inscription. Other similar treasures may come to light there. The site is large and we have on hand in our Director, in Mr. Baramki and in our three fellows a staff competent to do further and still more important work on it. All the technical equipment has been supplied. We are short at one point, namely in the money to pay the laborers for the digging. At our last meeting the Trustees authorized me to inquire of you whether individually you might care to help raise a small fund that could be used for this purpose, to avoid drawing upon invested funds. Our staff could work a month or two at Dibon, even on into the summer, on a couple of thousand dollars, and the results would not only enhance the standing of the School in the Jordan area but would be likely to yield further important results.

The fact is that the whole Moabite civilization is as yet only very dimly known. Dibon is certainly the place where its character can be further defined and where the picture of the relations between Israelitic and Moabite cultures can be clarified. Any contribution, personal or institutional, no matter how small, will be appreciated. Please send all such contributions to Prof. E.A. Speiser, Bennett Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., for deposit with our Treasurer, the Provident Trust Company of Philadelphia, making checks out to the American Schools of Oriental Research.

Sincerely yours,

Carl H. Kraeling.

President.